

## LWVO PROGRAM PLANNING 2017-2019

**TO:** Local League Presidents and Program Chairs

**FROM:** League of Women Voters of Ohio

### THE PROCESS

**What:** Program planning is your opportunity to make your voices heard. One of the highlights of state Convention (May 5-7, 2017 in Cuyahoga Falls) is the adoption of a state program that will position the League as a leader in advocacy and education in Ohio. In selecting issues that are important, lively and relevant, you can ensure that the League will have an impact on the significant policy issues facing our state. During the process, members have the opportunity—especially with email and discussion lists—to organize support for topics of concern.

**Why:** Grassroots program planning is a unique League feature. The program planning meeting is an every-member opportunity to review existing League positions and select the issues upon which League will spend time, talent, energy and money. **Local and state Leagues may choose to make no recommendations regarding possible new or updated positions—but also have the option to propose one new study, one review/update of an existing position, and/or one concurrence. Dropping a position is also an option.** Based on local League responses, a proposed program will be developed by the LWVO board of directors. At Convention, recommended and non-recommended items will be discussed and debated. Delegates will then adopt the 2017-2019 state program.

LWVO greatly appreciates the time and expertise your League devotes to giving LWVO thoughtful guidance on the state program for 2017-2019.

***It is important for all Leagues to complete and submit a response form whether or not they recommend a review/update, study, or dropping a position.***

### TIMELINE

Dec—mid-Feb	Local Leagues review present positions and choose priorities at a Program Planning Meeting.
Feb 24, 2017	Deadline for local boards, using the outcome of these meetings, to approve and send their recommendations to LWVO. Please complete the reporting form online at <a href="https://goo.gl/forms/yVaZhnJMc8ReEXTI3">https://goo.gl/forms/yVaZhnJMc8ReEXTI3</a> . If you are unable to complete the form online, please return the reporting form included in this packet electronically via email to <a href="mailto:lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org">lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org</a> by Feb. 24, 2017.
Mar 3-4, 2017	State board considers the recommendations from local Leagues and selects the Proposed Program.

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|----------------|--|
| March-May 2017 | Local Leagues review the Proposed Program. They may wish to use the League network to rally support for recommended and non-recommended items. |
| May 5-7, 2017  | State Convention delegates debate and adopt a 2017-2019 program. (Cuyahoga Falls)  |

**Materials provided**

- Introduction to the process and timeline (p.1 - 2)
- Definitions and Things to Consider (pages 2- 3)
- Report Form to complete online or email to the office (one per League; pages 4-5)
- List of current LWVO positions (page 6)
- Templates for meetings: small group format and large group format (pages 7-9)
- Quiz bowl (pages 10-12)

**Definitions and Things to Consider**

**Retention of Current Positions:** Current positions not recommended to be reviewed/updated or dropped will be assumed to be recommended to be retained as is.

**Review/ Update:** This is a study of limited scope to evaluate a position in light of new information, changed circumstances, and/or conflict with another position. Consider:

- Is the position sufficient as it stands to achieve the desired change?
- Is there a need and is there member interest in altering the position?
- Are there enough interested members to form the core of that study committee from your League?
- Do we have financial resources to update this position (about \$200 per year)?

**New Study/ Program Item:**

It is anticipated that a League suggesting a study for a new position will form the core study committee for the work involved. Studies typically last 12-24 months and have budgets of approximately \$200-300 each year to reimburse study members for their expenses.

A new study should be a critical issue for which we lack a position to take action and thus needs a study. You indicate the topic of the study, the scope/parameters of the study and rationale for pursuing a position on the topic. Consider:

- Is there a [national position](#) that could be used for this?
- Would the study result in a position that could then influence state legislative actions?
- Could the League make a unique contribution in this area or does it duplicate the work of others?
- Are there enough interested members in your League to form the core of the committee?
- Do we have financial resources to study the issue?

**Dropping a Position:** Are there positions that are no longer relevant/ needed?

**Building Support for Your Recommendation(s):** To be a recommended item at the 2017 Convention, a program recommendation must have significant support among Ohio Leagues as indicated on local Leagues' Report Forms. Therefore, LWVO urges Leagues to build support for their recommendations for a review/update, a study, or for dropping a position by reaching out to other Ohio Leagues during the program-planning process December-February and asking them to make the same recommendation.

**Legislative Priority:** Your League is asked to recommend the top priority position in each one of the three categories: Government, Social Policy and Natural Resources. Consider:

- Is this issue of paramount importance over the next two years?
- Can this issue be addressed most effectively through the state (rather than federal/local)
- Are there local League members well informed about this issue/position and willing to advocate for it?
- Is this issue current (in step with the times and member thinking)?
- Can League make a real contribution, or will it merely duplicate the work of others?
- Will timing and political realities permit League to be effective on this issue?

**Board Involvement:** The local Board approves all recommendations. A Board representative then completes the form and sends it in to LWVO. Only one form per League should be turned in.

**Reminder:** It is important for all Leagues to complete and submit a response form whether or not they recommend a legislative priority, review/update, study, or dropping a position.

**League Response Form: 2017-2019 State Program Planning**

Please complete this form at <https://goo.gl/forms/yVaZhnJMc8ReEXTI3> by Feb 24, 2017. If you are unable to return the form on line, please email it to: [lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org](mailto:lwvoinfo@lwvohio.org).

**Contact information:**

League \_\_\_\_\_ Board approval Date \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommendation to Review/ Update a Position:**

No recommendation \_\_\_\_\_ *or*

One item to be reviewed/updated (from the list on page 6)

Rationale:

Are there enough interested members in your League to form the core of the study committee?

Yes/ No

**Recommendation to Drop a Position:**

If your League recommends dropping a position, please complete the following:

Position to drop:

Rationale:

**Recommendation for a New Study.** Please refer to "Definitions and Things to Consider". Also, please double check to make sure LWVUS does not already have a relevant position.

No recommendation \_\_\_\_\_ *OR*

**Topic for the recommended study:** \_\_\_\_\_

Scope (what should and should not be covered)

Rationale (why timely and important):

Members willing to work on study:

**Recommendation for Concurrence:**

No recommendation \_\_\_\_\_ *OR*

We recommend concurrence with LWV \_\_\_\_\_ on the following position:

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Is there a place where it can be accessed electronically?

Rationale (why timely and important):

**Legislative Priority:** Is there ONE position from those listed on page 6 that should have priority for state action in 2017-19?

No one position should have priority \_\_\_\_\_ *OR*

Position that should have priority \_\_\_\_\_

Rationale:

**Methodology:** What method did your League use for program planning?

\_\_\_\_\_ Board meeting      \_\_\_\_\_ Membership meeting      \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please describe)

**Other:**

Was the Program Planning packet easy to understand?    \_\_\_ yes    \_\_\_ no

What suggestions do you have to improve future Program Planning packets and processes?

***Thank You!!!***

**First Program Category: Government** (pages 8-13 in *Agenda for Action*; also available online at <http://lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Advocacy/LWVO-Positions.cfm>)

Ohio Constitution

- General Criteria
- Taxation and Finance
- Judiciary
- Term Limits

Apportionment/Districting

State Government Finance

- Criteria
- Taxes on Business
- Income Tax
- Property Tax
- Sales Tax
- Tax Mix

**Second Program Category: Social Policy** (pages 16-29 in *Agenda for Action*; also available online at <http://lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Advocacy/LWVO-Positions.cfm>)

Primary and Secondary Education

- State Board and Department of Education
- State Education Standards
- Education Finance

Higher Education

Juvenile Justice

Capital Punishment (abolition and moratorium on death penalty)

Human Trafficking

**Third Program Category: Natural Resources** (pages 31-40 in *Agenda for Action*; also available online at <http://lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Advocacy/LWVO-Positions.cfm>)

Water

Solid Waste

Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste

Land Use

Interbasin Transfer of Water

Great Lakes Ecosystem

## THE PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

**Purpose:** To recommend which LWV Ohio positions should be retained or dropped and which, if any, new studies should be undertaken. To identify and recommend a priority issue.

### Goals of the Meeting:

1. To increase member awareness of current LWVO positions (and national and local League positions if you'd like) through discussion of positions.
2. To engage in a healthy discussion to identify and recommend any positions that need to be dropped or updated; to make suggestions for issues that require new studies.
3. To prioritize the areas in which League should be most active at the state level for 2017-2019.

### What You Will Need

A successful, productive Program Planning meeting requires a certain degree of effort by League leaders. They must be able to supply the information that leads to good decisions. A local board member with experience related to state program is the most appropriate person to prepare and chair the meeting.

Two sample Program Planning meeting formats are outlined on pages 8 and 9. Both require the following:

- ❖ League members!
- ❖ League Quiz Bowl host (if Quiz Bowl tool is used)
- ❖ Discussion Leader(s)
- ❖ In advance: a review of the full positions in *Agenda for Action* by discussion leader(s) and officers so that they can act as resource people during discussion of positions
- ❖ Recorder(s)
- ❖ Resources (ideally, at least one copy of each of the following for each small group, or multiple copies for large group): LWVO's positions as stated in *Agenda for Action* (<http://lwvohio.org/site.cfm/Advocacy/LWVO-Positions.cfm>) and LWVUS's positions as stated in *Impact on Issues* (<http://www.lwv.org>); local League program information. While additional copies of *Agenda for Action* and *Impact on Issues* are available for purchase, members may also access the files on the [lwvohio.org](http://lwvohio.org) or the [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) websites listed above.
- ❖ A copy of the handout "Definitions and Things to Consider, for each member (included in packet, pages 2-3)
- ❖ Flip-chart, blackboard or whiteboard
- ❖ A block of time!

## Sample 1: Small Group Format for Program Planning Meeting

(approximately 2 ½ hours)

Modify this plan to meet the needs of your League.

Local Leagues might organize the Program Planning meeting around small group discussions. This is a two-and-a-half hour meeting. Think about how to make this meeting fun – food always helps!

- Sign-in and coffee—15 minutes
- Welcome and overview of meeting—5 minutes
- League Quiz Bowl—30 minutes (optional activity)
- Small-group discussions on retain, drop, update—20 minutes
- Report their recommendations—10 minutes
- Break for lunch/ dinner—30 minutes
- Small-group discussions on priorities—15 minutes
- Report their recommendations—10 minutes. At this point, it may be necessary to use some means to narrow your selections.
- Whole group discussion of new study possibilities—15 minutes
- Close

After a welcome, you may choose to conduct the League Quiz Bowl (attached). Program planning need not be a dreary event! “League Quiz Bowl” is designed to familiarize members with current positions in preparation for dividing into smaller discussion groups. The host should be vivacious and enthusiastic. Members can be divided into teams and a scorekeeper appointed.

Next, divide the participants into three groups that correspond to the three state program categories: **1) Government; 2) Social Policy; and 3) Natural Resources.**

- Provide each group with at least one copy of *Agenda for Action* and the complete national positions for reference. Summaries are not adequate. Also please make sure each member has a copy of the handout “Definitions and Things to Consider” (pp.2-3 in this packet).
- Allow each group to decide on retaining, dropping or updating positions within “their” category. To keep the process flowing, appoint a recorder in each group who will make notes and report their recommendations to the whole group. Use a flip chart for a visual.

Following a break for lunch / dinner and using the same groups, ask them to prioritize one position.

Last, as a whole group, discuss issues to recommend for study.

## Sample 2: Whole Group Format for Program Planning Meeting

(approximately 2 ½ hours)

Modify this plan to meet the needs of your League.

- Sign-in and coffee—15 minutes
- Welcome and overview of meeting—5 minutes
- Whole group discussion on **retain, drop, update** for each of the positions in each of the three program categories (1. Government, 2. Social Policy and 3. Natural Resources)—20 minutes for each program category.
- Break (snack)—10 minutes
- Whole group discussions on priorities – 15 minutes for each program category
- Whole group discussion of new study possibilities – 15 minutes
- Close/ summarize

After a welcome, you may choose to conduct the League Quiz Bowl (attached). Program planning need not be a dreary event! “League Quiz Bowl” is designed to familiarize members with current positions in preparation for dividing into smaller discussion groups. The host should be vivacious and enthusiastic. Members can be divided into teams and a scorekeeper appointed.

Provide each table with at least one copy of *Agenda for Action* and a copy of each of the three program category handouts. Provide each member with a copy of the “Definitions and Things to Consider” handout. You will also need to have, as reference, a copy of the national positions (*LWVUS Impact on Issues*). Summaries are not adequate.

To keep the process flowing, appoint a recorder who will take notes for the final report. Use a flip chart or chalkboard for a visual.

Following a break, prioritize one position for lobbying or state attention.

Last, as a whole group, discuss any item to recommend for a study.

## Quiz Bowl

### Host Script:

- ✓ Welcome everyone and introduce the players and your “lovely assistant” (scorekeeper). Identify teams by names of your choosing. Suggestions might be “candidates & voters”, “white hats and black hats”, or “lobbyists & delegates”.
- ✓ Indicate that each question in the first round are worth 1 point. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round questions double in value to 2 points.
- ✓ Cue the audience that they may applaud, root for a team, AND become aware of League positions/non-positions through the game. Divide the audience in two and assign each a team to root on.
- ✓ Start the game. Players can signal that they would like to answer by using the “buzzer” of your choice. Suggestions would be whistles, drumsticks, bells, kazoos, etc.
- ✓ The questions to contestants follow on a separate page for ease of use. You can transfer the questions to index cards if that is easier for you. Since some Leagues may do local program planning in the same meeting, you can create and incorporate local program questions into the game as well.
- ✓ The game ends when all questions have been answered and the points tallied.
- ✓ Your lovely assistant can give each of the participants a “lovely parting gift”. This can be either a humorous token or a serious token like a “Vote” button, etc.

### Answers:

- |   |  |               |
|---|--|---------------|
| 1. Study  | 19. True   | 35. supports  |
| 2. Supports                                     | 20. B  | 36. B         |
| 3. False—elected                                | 21. Opposes  | 37. C         |
| 4. True   | 22. False—for statewide, uniform standards   |               |
| 5. False  | 23. F—against it   |               |
| 6. D  | 24. supports   |               |
| 7. Opposes                                      | 25. Land banking/ planned units, scenic easements, transfer of develop.rts, limited develop.ordinances |               |
| 8. False—community based                        | 26. supports   |               |
| 9. True   | 27. supports   |               |
| 10. True  | 28. B  |               |
| 11. B   | 29. False—99 House, 33 Senate  |               |
| 12. True  | 30. opposes  |               |
| 13. False                                       | 31. False  | 38. D         |
| 14. True  | 32. False  | 39. opposes   |
| 15. D   | 33. Supports   | 40. supported |
| 16. False—appointed by Gov. , with broad powers | 34. supports   |               |
| 17. True  |  |               |
| 18. B (flexible limit                           |  |               |

1. Taking a careful look at vast information, developing consensus questions and having member discussions is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The state education position supports or opposes the distribution of state aid to compensate for variations in local revenue raising?
3. True or false: The LWVO education position calls for a fully appointed state board of education?
4. True or false: While we must have positions on which to act, we do not need a position to educate the citizenry.
5. T/F: The LWVO has no position on the state constitution.
6. A new study may be suggested and approved by a board at what level of League? A) Local B) State C) National D) all of the above
7. The LWVO supports or opposes term limits for the General Assembly.
8. T/F: The LWVO juvenile justice position allows support of large, centralized treatment centers.
9. T/F: The use of an impartial committee to redistrict according to equal population is a League Ohio position.
10. T/F: The LWVO believes that public funds should be used only for public schools.
11. When it comes to taxation, should the need arise to increase taxes, the LWVO supports, first of all, which tax as a means to raise revenue: A) Property tax B) Income Tax C) Sales Tax D) Corporate Tax
12. T/F: According to our LWVO Higher Education position, the League believes that the state should provide funding to ensure that all academically qualified citizens have access to higher education.
13. T/F: The LWVO has a position in opposition to gambling.
14. T/ F: Rape is a crime, but not an LWVO position.
15. 'Local Leagues may take action on issues under which of the following positions: A) Local B) State C) National D) All of the above
16. T/F: LWVO would work to abolish the Board of Regents under our Higher Education position.
17. T/F: LWVO Education Finance position affirms that state aid to school districts should assist with building construction and health and safety improvement.
18. On Taxation and Finance, the LWVO supports revising the Constitution to do what to the fixed dollar debt limit: A) Add B) Remove C) Extend
19. T/T: LWVO believes in removing the constitutional provisions for earmarking uses for taxes.
20. Along with supporting incentives to local governments and industries for water pollution abatement, LWVO calls for adequate financing at what level: A) Federal B) State C) Local D) All of the above
21. LWVO supports or opposes holding children in adult jails.
22. T/T: Localities should be able to create standards for dealing with juvenile records.
23. T/F: LWVO advocates for occasional use of the death penalty.
24. LWVO supports or opposes the use of eminent domain under certain circumstances according to our Land Use position.

25. Fill in the blank, one point for each correct answer: LWVO supports the role of the state in providing the power and incentives for local governments to explore land use innovations such as:
26. LWVO supports or opposes education standards which utilize multiple forms of assessment.
27. The State Government Finance position on taxes supports or opposes a graduated personal income tax.
28. With respect to the sales tax, LWVO believes that food, prescription drugs, and components in manufacturing and agricultural use should be A) included in sales tax B) exempted from sales tax.
29. T/F: The LWVO supports no more than 150 House and 50 Senate districts in the Ohio Legislature.
30. LWVO supports or opposes the current method of apportionment/districting.
31. T/F: The LWVO has no position on solid waste.
32. T/F: The Interbasin Transfer of Water position supports Great Lakes decision-making by governmental bodies only.
33. LWVO supports or opposes changing the constitution to provide for appointment of judges followed by a retention election.
34. T/F: For hazardous materials, the LWVO supports state waste management options that emphasize waste reduction and elimination as a priority above land disposal.
35. LWVO supports or opposes private sector ownership and operation of hazardous, but not nuclear waste management facilities.
36. As long as Ohio has an all elective judiciary, the League supports elections that are A) Partisan B) Nonpartisan
37. The LWVO office is located in what city: A) Cleveland B) Cincinnati C) Columbus D) Dayton.
38. The newest state position is on A) redistricting B) voting rights C) fracking D) human trafficking.
39. LWVO supports or opposes allowing some juvenile offenders to be tried in adult courts.
40. State funding for higher education scholarships is supported/ opposed by LWVO.